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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
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RAIL PIGGYBACK TRAFFIC SHOWS

FIRST YEARLY DROP SINCE '75

WASHINGTON, January 12, 1981 -- Piggyback traffic on Class I U.S. railroads in 1980 fell below 1979's record and sustained the first year-to-year decline since 1975, when recession also affected business, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Piggyback carloadings totaled 1,661,110, down 10.6 percent from 1979. The number of trailers and containers carried totaled 3,014,864, an 8.0 percent drop from the previous year.

However, TOFC/COFC loadings accounted for 7.4 percent of total rail carloadings in 1980 and remained second only to coal -- the traditional leader -- as a source of railroad traffic.

Piggyback traffic for the holiday week ended December 27 totaled 21,525 cars, 4.8 percent below the corresponding holiday week of 1979, and 38,006 trailers and containers, 2.9 percent lower than 1979.

The AAR also reported that all freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended January 3 totaled 14.2 billion ton-miles, 3.0 percent below the corresponding week of 1980. Both weeks included the New Year's Day holiday.

Total carloadings on major railroads for the January 3 week were 338,261, down 8.3 percent from the comparable holiday week of 1980, but were 18.3 percent higher than the preceding Christmas week. Compared with last year, loadings were down 10.6 percent in the East, 10.3 percent in the South, and 5.7 percent in the West. Loadings of coal were up 3,901 cars, or 4.4 percent from the corresponding week of 1980.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 01/03/81:

	Loadings in Week ended January 3, 1981	Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week		
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	27,541	D	3,343	10.8	I	6,811	32.9
Other farm products	3,956	I	401	11.3	I	318	8.7
Metallic ores	26,810	I	334	1.3	I	4,249	18.8
Coal	91,708	I	3,901	4.4	I	18,802	25.8
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	7,411	D	3,143	29.8	I	2,034	37.8
Nonmetallic minerals	12,432	D	2,017	14.0	I	1,389	12.6
Grain mill products	12,176	D	2,970	19.6	I	487	4.2
Food and kindred products	12,806	D	1,650	11.4	I	1,862	17.0
Primary forest products	14,102	D	3,159	18.3	I	5,395	62.0
Lumber and wood products except furniture	4,934	D	1,193	19.5	D	201	3.9
Pulp, paper and allied products	16,734	D	2,047	10.9	I	3,555	27.0
Chemicals and allied products	27,128	I	397	1.5	I	5,007	22.6
Petroleum products	5,204	D	718	12.1	I	932	21.8
Stone, clay and glass products	11,876	D	1,722	12.7	I	2,882	32.0
Coke	6,033	I	525	9.5	I	1,204	24.9
Metals and products	14,172	D	1,482	9.5	I	3,012	27.0
Motor vehicles and equipment	4,036	D	5,379	57.1	D	6,128	60.3
Waste and scrap materials	8,490	D	659	7.2	I	499	6.2
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	5,971	D	1,241	17.2	D	544	8.3
All other carloads	24,596	D	5,263	17.6	I	457	1.9
LCL traffic	145	I	4	2.8	I	3	2.1
Total Cars Loaded	338,261	D	30,424	8.3	I	52,025	18.3
Corresponding week of 1980	368,685						

	1981	1980	% Change	
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
Week ended January 3	14.2	14.7	D	3.0

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